

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01495 121500Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /135 W
-----083267 131014Z /10

R 121215Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2431
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1495

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, TD
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON THE CARIBBEAN GROUP EXERCISE

REF: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 1452, (B) STATE 115863, (C) STATE 113521,
(D) PORT OF SPAIN 1371, (E) STATE 100012

1. MEETING WITH CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR MAY 10 WAS INCON-
CLUSIVE. HE PROFESSED TO BE NOT WELL INFORMED OF DEVELOP-
MENTS ON IBRD-LED CARIBBEAN GROUP. I GAVE HIM RUNDOWN ON
CURRENT STATE OF THE GROUP EFFORT, DRAWING ON CONTENTS
REFS (B) AND (E) AS APPROPRIATE. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
GOTT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN PARIS DONORS' MEETING, HE
EXPECTS THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED AT IBRD EXERCISE JUNE 19-23.

2. BRUCE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF AN IMF EFFORT TO OBTAIN
ADDITIONAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA, AND SAID
QUESTION WAS NOT RAISED WITH HIM AT IMF MEETING IN MEXICO
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CITY. HE THOUGHT THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MIGHT BE
WILLING TO CONSIDER SOME BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE
CONSISTENT WITH THE IMF'S AGREEMENT WITH JAMAICA IF
JAMAICA SHOULD ASK FOR IT, THOUGH HE WOULD NOT
PRE-JUDGE PM WILLIAMS' REACTION TO THE REQUEST.

3. GOTT'S BILATERAL AID PROJECT HAS BARELY GOTTEN

UNDER WAY -- BRUCE NOTED THAT NO FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED AS YET -- BUT ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED ON AN AD HOC BASIS, THE SALE OF CONCESSIONAL TERMS OF A USED SUGAR PLANT TO ST. VINCENT. AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED WITH THE IMF ON ROLE THE FUND WILL PLAY IN THE GOTT PROGRAM. AS IT IS EVOLVING, THE GOTT AID PROJECT APPEARS TO COMBINE ELEMENTS OF BOTH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT AND LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

4. BRUCE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEIR VIEWS OF CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS WERE NOT BASICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF OTHER DONORS, BUT ANY CHANGE IN GOTT'S ROLE IN THE LARGER EFFORT WILL HAVE TO COME FROM PM WILLIAMS. HE DID NOT APPEAR HOPEFUL OF ANY CHANGE.

5. COMMENT: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD US TWO WEEKS AGO THAT HE HAD BRIEFED MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SPECIAL IMF EFFORT ON JAMAICAN BOP QUESTION. BRUCE'S PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THIS MATTER IS CURIOUS BUT COMPLETELY CREDIBLE -- GIVEN STATE OF GOTT INTERNAL COORDINATION.
FOX

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NNN

Message Attributes

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